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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

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PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 AID-20 ARAE-00 CG-00 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3915
INFO AMCONSUL CALI
AMCONSUL MEDELLIN
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
USCINCSO

UNCLAS BOGOTA 6482

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR CO CU
SUBJ: COLOMBIA AND CUBA SIGN AIR AND MARITIME PIRACY ACCORD -
VAZQUEZ DISCUSSES RESTORATION OF RELATIONS

REF: BOGOTA 6463

1. COLOMBIA AND CUBA SIGNED AN AGREEMENT ON AIR AND MARITIME PIRACY ON JULY 22. THE SIGNING TOOK PLACE SIMULTANEOUSLY IN BOGOTA AND HAVANA.

2. FONMIN ALFREDO VAZQUEZ CARRIZOSA AND AMBASSADOR CARLOS AMAT FORES, DIRECTOR OF REGIONAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS FOR THE CUBAN FONMIN, SIGNED THE DOCUMENT IN BOGOTA. THE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED IN HAVANA BY FONMIN RAUL ROA AND REPRESENTATIVE FABIO LOZANO SIMONELLI, A LIBERAL MEMBER OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE WHO TRAVELED TO HAVANA AS SPECIAL AMB OF THE GOC.

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3. REP LOZANO TRAVELED TO CUBA LAST WEEK, ACCOMPANIED BY UNDERSEC FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS GUSTAVO GARCIA MORENO. THE CUBAN DEL TO BOGOTA INCLUDED AMB AMAT AND TOMAS ALMODOVAR SALAS, CHIEF OF THE LEGAL ADVISOR'S OFFICE OF THE CUBAN FONMIN.

4. VAZQUEZ, AS QUOTED IN LIBERAL DAILY EL ESPECTADOR, STATED THAT COLOMBIA WAS MOVING POSITIVELY TOWARD A PROMPT RENEWAL OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA. HE CHARACTERIZED THE AGREEMENT AS "THE MOST DECIDED STEP TOWARD A RAPID NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA". VAZQUEZ ADDED THAT HE DID NOT, HOWEVER, BELIEVE THAT THE RESTORATION OF RELATIONS COULD BE EFFECTED DURING THE REMAINING 15 DAYS OF THE PASTRANA ADMINISTRATION. TH. DECISION, HE SAID, WOULD REST WITH THE INCOMING (AUG 7) LOPEZ ADMINISTRATION. VAZQUEZ STATED THAT THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT HAD BEEN DONE IN AGREEMENT WITH THE PRES-ELECT. VAZQUEZ ALSO REFERRED TO PRES PASTRANA'S JULY 20 STATEMENT (REFTEL) THAT THE TIME HAD COME TO REVIEW THE QUESTION OF THE 1974 CUBAN SANCTIONS. IN THIS CONTEXT THE MIN STATED THAT IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO AWAIT THE DECISION OF AN OAS MTG OF MINISTERS ON THE MATTER. SUCH A MEETING, HE SAID, COULD LEAVE ALL OF THE NATIONS OF THE HEMISPHERE FREE TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO REESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH CUBA.

5. WHEN ASKED IF CASTRO STILL REPRESENTED A THREAT TO PUBLIC ORDER IN COLOMBIA, VAZQUEZ SAID THAT THAT WAS A QUESTION FOR THE MINDEFENSE. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT AT THE GOVT LEVEL HE BELIEVED THAT CUBAN SUPPORT FOR GUERRILLA GROUPS HAD BEEN REDUCED TO THE POINT WHERE IT WAS POSSIBLE AND APPROPRIATE TO REVIEW THE CUBAN SITUATION.

6. VAZQUEZ CHARACTERIZED THE PIRACY AGREEMENT AS AN ADVANCE FOR THE POLICY OF IDEOLOGICAL PLURALISM, STATING THAT IT WAS A LOGICAL APPLICATION OF THAT POLICY.

7. THE FONMIN'S COMMUNIQUE, ISSUED ON THE EVENING OF JULY 22, BEING SENT SEPTTEL. TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT BEING POUCHED. VAKY

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